

2012

Stewardship Manual



A cooperative “Open
Space Lands”
stewardship program
connecting regional
citizen volunteers and
land owners

Mashpee Conservation Department
16 Great Neck Rd North
Mashpee, MA 02649
508.539.1424

Land Stewards Program

Lost

"Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you,
If you leave it you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows
Where you are. You must let it find you."

David Wagoner

INTRODUCTION

As the current beneficiaries of the area's ecological assets, we share the accompanying responsibility of protecting and maintaining lands set aside for the public's enjoyment and recreation, to protect our water resources and plant and wildlife habitat, and to preserve some of the Cape's unique natural beauty.

Without a strong stewardship program to monitor the lands controlled by the Towns and other participating entities, open space properties can be degraded or lost. It is important to ensure any applicable conservation restrictions, boundaries and land use are maintained over time. A byproduct of a good stewardship program is greater public support for conservation lands.

The Land Stewards Program is a cooperative effort undertaken to provide a positive presence on open space lands. It combines monitoring, reporting and minor maintenance activities into a team effort aimed at protection and preservation of these invaluable assets. Volunteers can be Land Stewards or they can be specialized volunteers, working on specific projects.

Land Steward's Role:

The primary responsibility of the land steward is caretaking, “to be a presence on the land”. The steward should monitor the land regularly, assist to keep trails cleared, and support clean-up efforts when necessary. Activities accomplished under this role are reported to the Conservation Department (Concom), contact information below. This position requires a regular time commitment from the volunteer.

Land Steward's Activities:

- Walk parcels at least 4 times per year
- Note how property is being used
- Notice any erosion problems
- Note any safety hazards (bring to attention of Concom)
- Make note of any vandalism
- Note location of any identified invasive plants
- Pick up small size/volume litter
- Be sure to take all the proper precautions when walking through the woods (ticks, bees, poison ivy, etc)

Land Steward Parcel Evaluations – A Physical for the Land

The land steward's second responsibility is to submit monitoring reports on the property to the Dept of Conservation. These documents act as the land's “physical”, recording the health of the land and any changes over time.

Parcel Evaluation Criterion

- Record positive, neutral or negative changes on evaluation form;
- Return this information back to Concom. Reports can be dropped off at the Conservation Dept. office in Town Hall, 416 Great Neck Rd North or can be emailed to the department (information below).

What to Look For and Record:

- Clues that suggest change, (e.g. new roads, worn tire paths, piles of brush or debris, downed trees, trash, changes in vegetation, cleared land)
- Ask questions about any changes from neighbors or walkers you meet
- Look for special features, invasive species, unusual plant life, evidence of wildlife, terrain change.
- Observe trail usage and conditions
- Observe signage.

Specialized Volunteers

Specialized volunteers help with events outside the duties of the Land Stewards. This position does not require regular participation; instead, volunteers can choose to participate in events organized by the Conservation Dept.

Possible Specialized Volunteer Activities:

- Invasive species removal
- Beautification projects
- Trail maintenance or creation
- Debris removal

***** Both Land Stewards and Specialized Volunteers Do Not:**

- Perform maintenance using power tools
- Construct new trails without approval from the Concom
- Enter into confrontational situations with others harming the property and/or performing illegal activities
- Introduce new plantings without approval from Concom
- Introduce new signage without approval from Concom
- Go off the established trails

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Numbers:

Mashpee Conservation (Main #)	(508)-539-1424
Drew McManus (Mashpee Conservation Agent):	(508)-539-1400 X8539 amcmanus@mashpeema.gov
Kelsey Boyd (Land Steward Coordinator):	(508)-539-1400 X8597 kelsey.e.boyd@gmail.com
Mashpee Police	(508)-539-1480
Mashpee Fire Dept.	(508)-539-1454
Mashpee Harbor Master	(508)-539-1450
Mashpee Shellfish Constable	(508)-539-1480 X7279
Mashpee DPW	(508)-539-1420
MA Environmental Police	1 (800) 632 8075
Waquoit Bay Research Reserve	(508)-457-0495
Friends of the Mashpee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	(508)-292-3707

NOTE:

Please be consistent with parcel name and address you give to Mashpee Police/EPO & Mashpee Conservation Dept. If the name and address are consistent, the police can better track areas where illegal activities are concentrated. Accurate records can help to produce year end statistics on problem areas. This will help direct management priorities on town conservation land and open space parcels.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Illegal Dumping/Vandalism

Any illegal dumping should be reported immediately to the Mashpee Police Dept, Environmental Police Dept and the Mashpee Conservation Dept. If a volunteer happens to see dumping in progress, try to make note of the vehicle plate #, description, contents and the date/time/location that the dumping occurred. Stewards are encouraged to remove trash if they have the means to do so. A voucher for the Mashpee Transfer Station can be provided to any land steward who is willing to dispose of illegally dumped trash items such as furniture, appliances and other large ticket items. An onsite verification of the trash to be disposed with the conservation agent is required prior to the issuance of a transfer station voucher.

ATVs

All Terrain Vehicles are prohibited on town land. Experience has shown that gates and boulders are not effective in keeping ATVs out of open space lands. The steward should document, as accurately as possible, locations of physical damage, if the incursions appear to be continuous and any other information that could lead to the identification of the operator(s). All reports should be delivered to Mashpee Concom.

**** If a steward finds needles or syringes or other items that represent a safety risk, they should make a description of the location that can be used by others to identify the location and notify the Police Dept. as soon as possible**.**

Liability:

All Land Steward activities are considered individual "Volunteerism" and no liability insurance exists for participants in the program. All individuals are expected to exercise reasonable care and take precautions to protect themselves from harmful events

****Open space areas may be home to insects such as ticks, mosquitoes and similar pests as well as plants such as poison ivy and poison sumac.****

****If driving on open parcel roads, 4 wheel drive vehicles are recommended****

Appendix A

**Report Form
&
Observation Sheet**



Monitoring Report Form

Form can also be completed online through the Mashpee Land Stewards Website

Property_____

Steward_____

Date/Time_____ Property Name_____

Number of volunteers____Hours Monitoring_____

Condition of Property

	YES	NO	SEE COMMENT BELOW
Is there dumping of trash? (what type: large items, truckloads of debris, brush/leaves)			
Is there evidence of vandalism?			
Is there evidence of ATV use?			
Is there evidence of fires on the property?			
Have any trees/shrubs been cut down?			
Is there any storm damage to the vegetation that requires clearance from trails?			

***Feel free to email pictures or include prints with monitoring reports.**

Additional Comments:

Appendix B.

Parcel Map & Parcel Keys



Conservation Commission Parcels

MAP/KEY	NAME	ADDRESS	ACRES	USE	ACCESS
CC1	Alper CA	103/140 Hooppole Rd	33028	OS*	Good
CC2	Anchor CA	600 Main St	2.43	OS	Fair
CC3	Andrade CA	137 & 185 Turner Rd	32.7	OS	Poor
CC4	Back Rd CA	Back Rd	19.365	OS	Good
CC5	Besse Bog CA	311 Main St (rte 130)	23.768	OS	Good
CC6	Bickerstaffe CA	6 Chopchaque Rd	3.5	OS Wetland/Water	Fair
CC7	Childs River CA	694 Old Barnstable Rd	37.8	OS/Stream/Bogs	Poor
CC8	Dutchman's Creek CA	80 Monomoscoy Rd	8.28	OS	Good
CC9	Frog Pond CA				
CC10	Great River CA	77 Whipporwill Circle	0.5	OS/Water Access	Good
CC11	Hamblin Pond CA	Islands in Hamblin Pond	1.48	Island	Island
CC12	James Circle	James Cir/Rte 151	5.73	OS	Good
CC13	Jehu Pond CA	Great Oak/Great Hay Rd	109.68	OS/Wetland/Water	Good
CC14	Johns Pond Park CA	Back Rd/Grafton Pocknett	308.024	OS/Beach	Good
				Trails/Bogs	
CC15	Lovell's Lane CA	101-125 Lovell's Ln	4.9	OS	Good
CC16	M.R. Woodlands CA	Quinaquisset Ave/	391.41	Trails/Canoe/	Good
		Mashpee Neck Rd		Picnic/Fishing	
		River Rd/ GN South			
CC17	MR Woodland-Lopez	127 Meetinghouse Rd	15.22	OS/Trails	Good
CC18	MR Woodland-Fitch	233 Meetinghouse Rd	11.2	OS/Trails	Good
CC19	MR Woodland-	408 Great Neck Rd South	13.7	OS/Trails	Good
	Desrosiers				
CC20	Mashpee Pond CA	28 Lake Ave	1.8	OS/Water access	Good
CC21	Noisy Hole CA	Goodspeed Rd	32.2	OS/Wetland	Good
CC22	Noisy Hole CA South	Noisy Hole Rd	119.58	OS	Poor
CC23	Pheasant Run CA	Cape Dr	13.61	OS/Powerline	Good
CC24	Punkhorn Point CA	End of Punkhorn Pt Rd	2.6	OS/Landing	Fair
CC25	Quashnet River CA	Off Turner Rd	50.63	OS	Poor
CC26	Quashnet River CA	153 Rte 151	1.64	OS	Good
	Bates Rd				
CC27	Quashnet River CA	166 Rte 151	14.5	OS/Wetland	Good
	Dawson				
CC28	Quashnet Woods	2 Quashnet Woods Dr	27.02	OS	Unofficial
CC29	Radcliffe Rd	35 Radcliffe Rd	2.015	Vernal Pool	Good
CC30	Sachem's Field CA	Wakeby Rd	27.2	OS/Trails	Poor
CC31	Santuit Pond CA	Shields Rd	16.174	OS/Trails	Fair
CC32	Santuit River CA Nrth	Off Rte 28	0.86	OS	None

CC33	Santuit River CA	Popponessett Ave	19.32	OS/Trails	Good
CC34	Scituate Rd	Scituate Rd	2.61	OS	Good

CC35	Sconsett Village	Lowell Rd	21.32	OS	Good
CC36	Sedge Lot Pond CA	South Cape Beach	10.3	Marsh	Poor
CC37	Sipps Rd CA	50 Sipps Rd	32.25	OS	Good
CC38	South Mashpee Pine	Great Hay Rd	277.81	OS/Trails	Good
	Barrens CA				
CC39	Sunset Circle parcel	59 Sunset Circle	0.314	OS/Water Access	Good
CC40	Timberlane Lots	Timberland Dr & Autumn Dr.	5.185	OS	Good
CC41	Notre Dame Ln	Peter's Path/Notre Dame Ln	9.509	OS/Trails	Good
CC42	Pickerel Cove RA	759 Main St (Rte 130)	73.8	OS/Trails	Good
CC43	John Johansen CA	100 Meetinghouse Rd	1.09	Recreation	Good

Land Bank Parcels

LB1	Quashnet Woodlands (Belcher)	Between GN North/Lowell Rd/ Great Hay Rd/Quashnet Rd	192.93	OS	Good
LB2	Santuit Pond Preserve	Off Rte 130 & Newtown Rd	185.89	OS	Fair
LB3	Silva	105 Timberlane Dr	0.46	OS	Good
LB4	Johnson Rd	Johnson Rd	0.12	OS	Poor
LB5	Attaquin Property		9.3	OS	Good
LB6	Mashpee Place		16.46	OS	Good

Open Space Parcels

<u>MAP/KEY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>USAGE</u>	<u>ACCESS</u>
OS1	Maple Street OS	1 Maple Street	1.0 acres	OS	Unknown
OS2	Mashpee River outlet	28 Lake Ave	1.0 acres	OS	Fair

- * CC = Conservation Commission
- * OS = Open Space
- * LB = Land Bank

